

meet the criteria set forth in subparagraph (b)(2)(A) of this section; and

“(C) any other activity undertaken by the State for the purpose of increasing seat belt utilization unless disapproved by the Secretary on the basis that it bears no relation to that objective.”.

**SA 2296.** Mr. FITZGERALD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1072, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 705, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

**SEC. —. STATE-BY-STATE COMPARISON OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION COSTS.**

(a) COLLECTION OF DATA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall collect from States any bid price data that is necessary to make State-by-State comparisons of highway construction costs.

(2) DATA REQUIRED.—In determining which data to collect and the procedures for collecting data, the Administrator shall take into account the data collection deficiencies identified in the report prepared by the General Accounting Office numbered GAO-04-113R.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall submit to Congress an annual report on the bid price data collected under subsection (a).

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The report shall include—

(A) State-by-State comparisons of highway construction costs for the previous fiscal year (including the cost to construct a 1-mile road segment of a standard design, as determined by the Administrator); and

(B) a description of the competitive bidding procedures used in each State.

**NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS**

**COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a hearing entitled “The President’s FY2005 Budget Request for the SBA.” The hearing will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. in 428A Russell Senate Office Building.

For further information please contact Wes Coulam 224-5175.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the “Proposals for Improving the Regulatory Regime of Government Sponsored Enterprises.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10 at 10 a.m. to consider the President’s proposed fiscal year 2005 budget for the Department of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, at 10 a.m., to consider the nomination of Samuel W. Bodman, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, U.S. Department of Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, for a hearing on the Administration’s proposed Fiscal Year 2005 Department of Veterans Affairs budget. The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 3 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet Tuesday, February 10, 2004 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Dirksen 628 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Joint Economic Committee be authorized to conduct a hearing in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Tuesday, February 10, 2004, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Diana Harrington of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor during the pendency of S. 1072.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2061**

Mr. FRIST. I understand S. 2061, introduced by Senator GREGG and others, is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2061) to improve women’s access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services.

Mr. FRIST. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

**MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2062**

Mr. FRIST. I understand S. 2062, introduced by Senator GRASSLEY and others, is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2062) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

**CORRECTING TECHNICAL ERRORS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 610**

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 354, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 354) to correct technical errors in the enrollment of the bill S. 610.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 354) was agreed to.

**APPOINTMENTS**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to 10 U.S.C.